



INSIGHTS

108th Congress

April 12, 2004

*Also available on the FEMP Home Page at
www.eere.energy.gov/femp/newsevents/insights108.cfm.*

[Weekly Summary](#)

[Committee Activity](#)

[House](#)

[Senate](#)

[New Legislation](#)

[Administration
Initiatives](#)

[Hearings Schedule](#)

INSIGHTS is prepared expressly for the Department of Energy's Office of Federal Energy Management Programs (FEMP). The purpose of **INSIGHTS** is to provide FEMP management staff with timely information on legislative activities relevant to the program. **INSIGHTS** is prepared for FEMP by Energetics, Incorporated, (202) 479-2748.

I. WEEKLY SUMMARY

CONGRESSIONAL SCHEDULE

The House is in the second of its two-week recess and the Senate is on a week-long recess this week. Congress will return April 20.

FY 2005 BUDGET RESOLUTION

The House recessed on April 2 for two weeks without completing conference negotiations with the Senate on an FY 2005 Budget Resolution. The Senate resolution (*S. Con. Res. 95*) provides \$824 billion and the House (*H. Con. Res. 393*) offered \$821 billion as their funding cap for FY 2005. The non-binding resolution has a statutory deadline of April 15 of each year. The Republican leadership intends to resume negotiations once Congress returns in order to pass the resolution by the end of the month. The major hurdle will be to come to terms on the \$3 billion difference between the House and Senate proposals.

COMPREHENSIVE ENERGY LEGISLATION

Wrangling over proceeding with a floor debate in the Senate on *S. 2095 – Energy Policy Act of 2005* continued between Republicans and Democrats. The Republican Leadership has reported that it has more than the 60 votes needed to pass the bill, but will not put the bill before the full Senate until the Democrats agree to limit the number of amendments they plan to introduce. Democrats have said they have no specific number. In a March 24 letter to the President, Democrats have also called on the Administration to temporarily halt filling of the Strategic Petroleum Reserve (SPR) and to release some of the SPR in order to help lower the price of gasoline to the consumer. The Administration has said that SPR must be filled to capacity in order to have fuel available in the event of a future shortfall. The letter included a 13-point plan to address rising concerns over the cost and availability of fuel. The 24-signatories (23 Democrats and one Republican) also called on for a “national fuel strategy” for the long term.

Some have suggested that the energy bill be spit into stand-alone bills in order to move forward on important issues such as electricity reliability. However, Pete Domenici (R/NM), Chair of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources and the prime mover of comprehensive energy legislation remains opposed to such a strategy. In a recent release last week, Chairman Domenici said in part,

This bill stabilizes energy prices, increases production and diversifies our energy supply. The energy bill will have an impact on gasoline prices, coal prices, natural gas prices and the cost and reliability of electricity. Let's stop politicking energy and pass this bill.

No date has been set for a floor debate on the bill. Majority Leader Bill Frist (R/TN) has indicated that he plans to put the bill before the full Senate before the end of the Congressional year.

[Back to Table of Contents](#)

II. COMMITTEE ACTIVITY

HOUSE

Legislation

X

Summary of Hearings

X

SENATE

Legislation

X

Summary of Hearings

X

[Back to Table of Contents](#)

IV. NEW LEGISLATION

(Note: Once a new bill is introduced, the Government Printing Office generally requires from several days to one week to make the bill available in print)

HOUSE

X

SENATE

X

[Back to Table of Contents](#)

V. ADMINISTRATION INITIATIVES

X

[Back to Table of Contents](#)

VI. HEARINGS SCHEDULE

HOUSE – COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Date/Committee	Chair	Hearing Title/Issues	Witnesses	Time/ Location

HOUSE – AUTHORIZATIONS/OVERSIGHT

Date/Committee	Chair	Hearing Title/Issues	Witnesses	Time/ Location

SENATE – COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Date/Committee	Chair	Hearing Title/Issues	Witnesses	Time/ Location

SENATE – AUTHORIZATIONS/OVERSIGHT

Date/Committee	Chair	Hearing Title/Issues	Witnesses	Time/ Location
<i>April 21 –</i> Subcommittee on Public Lands and Forests (Committee on Energy and Natural Resources) <i>(NEW)</i>	Larry Craig (R/ID)	<i>Hearing –</i> Oversight hearing to examine the implementation of the Recreation Fee Demonstration Program by the Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management, and on policies related to the program.	TBA	2:30 p.m. Room 366 Dirksen Office Building
<i>April 27 –</i> Committee on Energy and Natural Resources	Pete Domenici (R/NM)	<i>Hearing –</i> Oversight hearing on sustainable, low emission electricity generation	TBA	10:00 a.m. Room 366 Dirksen Office Building

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE NEGOTIATIONS AND FLOOR VOTES

Date/Action	Issue/Bill	Time/Location

[Back to Table of Contents](#)